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Mom-to-be casts US vote en route to delivery room

CHICAGO (AFP) - Nothing was going to stop first-time voter Galicia Malone from casting her ballot in yesterday's US elections -- not even the imminent birth of her first child. The 21-year-old from Dolton, Illinois, a suburb of President Barack Obama's adopted hometown Chicago, had been in labor since the middle of the night, with contractions five minutes apart.

But she insisted en route to hospital on stopping at her local polling station -- the aptly named New Life Celebration Church -- to cast her ballot, Cook County clerk David Orr

said in a news release..

"I never voted before so this made a major difference in my life," Malone said. "And I wanted this to be a stepping-stone for my daughter. I was just trying to read the ballot paper and breathe, read and breathe," she added. "That's what I kept telling myself: 'Read and breathe, read and breathe'."

Orr, whose office is in charge of setting up local polling stations, said: "My hat goes off to Galicia for not letting anything get in the way of voting. What a terrific example she is showing for the next generation."

Results of the Dutch MER commission study is in

ORANJESTAD -- Last Friday the Aruba Parliament received the long awaited results of the Dutch MER Commission on the Uirama Wind park project. After much talk and no specific scientific evidence presented to the public, at least this news media has not received any such scientific results; the 'results' concluded that any effect that the windmills may have on residents in the vicinity of the windmills will be speculative or at best psychologically induced and not from the actual noise or presence of the wind mills.

According to Donny Rasmijn, of the Central Parliament Commission, "now that the result of the study is in, a public Parliament meeting must be called as soon as possible. We could never have accepted a project that was scientifically proven to be bad for citizens' health."

They have concluded that it has been scientifically proven



that the project is not bad for people's health. According to them, they have indicated that the report attests that people could be affected by factors other than the noises of the

windmills. They cite economic factors, participation by residents in the decision and when inhabitants can see the turbines. These they claim are unpleasant things because it depends on each person if they want to accept something or not. Their argument is that residents must simply decide to accept the fact of these turbines staring them in the face and accept the noises they make....and then they will not be affected by them.

They cited a research study conducted in Massachusetts by several professionals, such as a doctor in Sleep Medicine, Ph.D. in environment and health, Ph.D. in Neuroscience. That study they claim proved that wind turbines do not cause damage to people's health.

"The Uirama Project" has been scrutinized more than any other project on Aruba, Rasmijn concluded.

Obama worries about Sandy victims getting hit anew

WASHINGTON (AFP) - US President Barack Obama said yesterday he was worried that people left homeless or otherwise hit by superstorm Sandy might be slammed again by severe weather later this week.

As the country voted in the presidential election, the White House said Obama convened a conference call with his senior disaster relief official and the Homeland Security chief to discuss the aftermath of Sandy's onslaught.

Obama also stressed earlier instructions that the federal government do everything it can to help state and local authorities provide emergency housing, and address fuel shortages and continuing power outages.

The national weather service forecasted heavy rain and

likely snow today and tomorrow, accompanied by gale force winds gusting as high as 43 mph (69 kmh).

New York Mayor Michael Bloomberg said that parks and beaches would close. The

worst-hit patches of waterfront neighborhoods, including Rockaways in the Queens borough, and in Staten Island, were being asked to evacuate again.

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De Palm Tours Recognizes Employees for TripAdvisor Awards



During the annual employee party of De Palm Tours, General Manager Warren Stanley took the time to recognize those who played a key part in solidifying De Palm Tours' high ranking on TripAdvisor, which resulted in 2 Certificates of Excellence for the year 2012, for both De Palm Tours and Atlantis Submarines. Visitors that take a De Palm Tours tour (for example a bus or jeep tour) give such positive feed-

back on TripAdvisor of their experiences that De Palm Tours now ranks #2 in the tours category. This high ranking would not be possible without the excellent service, engagement and customer-friendliness of the tour guides and staff that on a daily basis show visitors the best of Aruba.

During the ceremony, the following employees were recognized: Jeep Tour department: Ivo Lacle, Rocky

Franken Jr., Juan Guzman, and James Gordon. Bus Tour department: Rocky Franken Sr., Gregory Barrios. De Palm Island: RJ Johnson III, De Palm Underwater: Julio Bufalini. For Atlantis: Maira German, Seaworld Explorer: Angelique Lacle. Palm Pleasure: Albert Thielman. And for Transient Sales: Zuleyma Doornkamp.

Congratulations go out to all employees that were recognized for their great work.

Divi Resorts goes in style for the 2nd annual fashion event *Aruba In Style 2012*

Divi's Aruba properties feature trendy nightspots, chic beachfront restaurants and stylish decor

ORANJESTAD – The second annual Aruba in Style fashion event unfolded this past weekend in Aruba, with local and international designers presenting a series of runway shows, collection presentations and cocktail parties at trendy hot-spots around the island.

Divi Resorts showed its full support for the fashionable weekend, which is aimed at cementing Aruba's name as the chicest place in the Caribbean. The brand's various properties and unique venues offered the perfect locations to host some of the most important events to take place during Aruba in Style.

On Friday afternoon, just as the sun was setting, Pure Beach restaurant, located at the Divi Aruba Phoenix Beach Resort, hosted the Dutch & Aruban Group Show, with Dutch designers Allan Vos and Edwin Oudshoorn teaming up with local designers Elisa Lejuez and Gigliola Designs for an unforgettable runway show.

Known as one of the island's hottest venues, the slick-looking Pure Beach, with its European style and location right on a pristine strip of white sand, surrounded by water on three sides, provided the perfect backdrop for the runway show. Pure Beach is known for its artful menu of eclectic epicurean fare and signature cocktails, which attract a jet-set international crowd. The venue is popular with guests staying at the Divi Aruba Phoenix Beach Resort; an all-

suite property with a high-rise tower that offers stunning views and private balconies, as well as 42" plasma TVs, fully equipped kitchens, picture windows, and much more.

The Divi Phoenix's freshwater pools also played host to Aruba in Style on Friday night, as back-to-back fashion shows presented the designs of Caffe Swimwear (Colombia) and Arubianas by Eva Zissu (Venezuela).

The following morning, Windows on Aruba, at the Divi Links Golf & Beach Resort, served up an elegant Wedding Champagne Brunch to celebrate the creations of Brazilian designer Samuel Cernansck.

Windows on Aruba is a fully glass-enclosed, air conditioned restaurant, with sweeping panoramic views of The Links at Divi Aruba's 9-hole golf course and the turquoise Caribbean waters just beyond. With several culinary awards and nominations under its belt, the fine dining restaurant was well-prepared to wow visitors with its mouthwatering creations and impeccable service.

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Aruba is of great interest to the world's largest coalition of climate change organizations

ORANJESTAD -- The final presentation by Jose Maria Figueres, President of the Carbon War Room, at the Green Aruba 2012 Renewable Energy Conference in October ended with a public and personal affirmation by its founder, Richard Branson, of their commitment to Aruba. Their understanding with the Aruban government to assist the island in achieving 100% oil independence by 2020 is a landmark partnership not only for Aruba, but could have worldwide implications and applications.

It has attracted the keen attention of another extremely influential and active group, the Global Campaign for Climate Action (<http://gc-ca.org/gcca-home-english>). This is according to the local based international sustainable development and human rights organization, Rainbow Warriors Core Foundation Aruba, founded by activist Milton Ponson in 2002. To his knowledge, Rainbow Warriors Core Foundation is the only Caribbean based organization to be

member of the GCCA.

The GCCA was born from conversations between internationally-respected campaigners and advocates representing environmental and development NGOs and social justice groups. It runs the TckTckTck campaign, which "strengthens global civil society action to prevent catastrophic climate change, adapt to climate impacts and make the transition to a more sustainable and just world." It has 270 member organizations dedicated to all aspects of global sustainability, including some of the largest and well known, such as Greenpeace, YMCA and YWCA International, the World Wildlife Federation International and Sierra Club. In 2009 and 2010, member organizations of the GCCA together mobilized 17 million people worldwide in a shared call for a fair, ambitious and legally-binding climate treaty.

As a member organization, Rainbow Warriors Core Foundation is continually in contact with the GCCA, while wor-



Richard Branson joins the closing via Skype

king on a "road map" for a viable, sustainable and environmentally-conscientious Aruba. "One of the central themes in the real world, for places like Aruba, is the concept of a green economy to salvage poorer economies - to provide jobs and incomes and reduced energy costs," explains Ponson. "Most of such tourism destinations are very similar in

the problems and challenges they face."

The GCCA Communications Director has approached the Carbon War Room, which recently joined the ranks of the GCCA as a member organization, expressing their interest in Aruba's stated goals of a 100% green economy through oil independence, by 2020. "If they are doing this project with

a time scale, there is a component of "storytelling" to be done during this 8-year journey to help make it successful," observes Ponson. "Proper and engaging media exposure is vital. A global campaign by GCCA has been suggested and Carbon War Room has taken it under advisement. The entire federation will help with promulgating the story. Imagine the value! This is equal to millions of dollars worth of exposure at no cost, for the coming eight years; exposure at very specific and targeted niches. The name of Aruba will become part of presentations at various conferences and symposiums that are dedicated to nations, civil societies, business and industry, which are contemplating the same plan of action."

"The people who are already of the mind set that we need to change the world will come to Aruba, observe our actions, and go home and tell their friends to come to Aruba and see what we are doing.

Continued on page 5

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4 Island artists on display at Westin Art Gallery



Flora and Fauna by Ria



Window box by Simonetta

On Saturday, November 3, the paintings of four local women went on display at the Westin

Art Gallery in the Westin Resort in Palm Beach, for a two-month exposition titled "4 X 8



Cunucu house by Eefje

on Canvas." Curators on the Go Michiko Takatsu and Eduardo Valbuena are featuring the work of well known artist Eefje van der Straten with three relative newcomers to formal expositions, Simonette Nieuwkerk, Ria Wendriks and Agaath van Vliet.

The exhibit is colorful and very nature based. Flora and fauna are a recurring theme, in a diversity of styles, from Eefje's sophisticated abstracts, to Agaath's distinctly primitive-style creations. Each artist has contributed eight pieces to the current collection, some of them consisting of installments of six or more works.



Butterflies by Agaath



Simonetta Nieuwkerk, Ria Wendriks, Agaath van Vliet and Eefje van der Straten

It is a lively display of island landscapes and bold floral themes. Few tax the imagination or are particularly thought-provoking, but the collection is appealing and

generally attractive.

The Westin Gallery is located on the main lobby level, next to the concierge desk. It is open 24/7 for viewing the collection.

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Aruba is of great interest to the world's largest coalition . . .

Continued from page 3

This is addressing a group that is proven to be of a higher income bracket, just the sort of clientele the island wishes to attract," he points out.

"By embarking on this journey, Aruba will also attract investors interested in setting up new sectors of industry, as envisioned in the concept of the green economy of the United Nations. This also includes waste recycling and who knows? Once this focus on change really takes hold, it will spark that entrepreneurial spirit leading to what we need."

"All it takes is a few people to come up with a novel idea for taking advantage of these new services. Aruba can be a showcase for all these new technologies. This automatically becomes very attractive to international industry to use Aruba as a hub for products and services in renewable energy products. Any salesman needs a showroom, and Aruba could be this showroom. This will stimulate travel to the island. This was envisioned by Prime Minister Mike Eman's government as they stated in their "Green Gateway:" doc-



ument. I have to commend the government on this visionary plan."

"The change process in Aruba has reached "critical mass." What I mean by this, is we have built sufficient momentum to draw all the necessary participants, which would be all the people of Aruba, to execute "the roadmap." Key groups of stakeholders that are necessary to insure success are the local business and industry, scientific and technological industries, and all our professionals. They may be still stu-

dy, graduated but not in Aruba, or graduated and on island. We need them to get onboard, and that is the government's responsibility - to engage the locals." This point was also brought across during the Green Aruba Energy Conference 2012 by both Jose Maria Figures and Dr. Wubbo Ockels of TU Delft.

"I am composing an operational manual based on UN guidelines that would be a prototype roadmap composed of these elements," continued Ponson. "We are fortunate to have a facilitator like Branson who can actually help us create an operations manual, which will be tweaked to our particular needs."

"An accurate analogy is the successful creation of a new model of car; the process from initial concept, to creation and then testing of a prototype, starting the engine and driving towards a destination. During the process, we refine, redesign, tweak and make sure the car never stops. It should be used at a national level, guided by a team of experts. From what I

can see, those among the Aruban population who have the education, professional background and skill sets, who believe they can be a part of the process, are growing in number. It is now up to the government of Aruba to engage these stakeholders in line with what is necessary to execute the roadmap. I believe this government has the means at their disposal to do this and they should actively seek out the local scientific and technological community, to help them write this operational manual."

"This is not a temporary state, but permanent. For Aruba to successfully transition to a 100 % fossil fuel free economy by 2020, as envisioned in the accord between Aruba and the Carbon

War Room, it will have to transcend political ideology. It should be focused on having all the relevant stakeholders committed to this goal." Ponson likened the situation to the emotions and mechanics behind "the big game."

"We are about to play an important game, with the government of Aruba as the coach. We are in the dressing room and the coach is delivering the pep talk. In order for the team to win, each and every player will have to do his or her part; no player can be left out. When we go out there into the arena, with the lights shining on the entire team, it is the team that wins or loses, not the individual players."

Rosalie Klein



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Mainstreet Downtown Aruba

In sunshine and storm's wake, Americans line up to vote

FALLS CHURCH, Virginia, (AFP) - From storm-ravaged New Jersey to a sun-kissed California, millions of Americans lined up yesterday to vote in the dramatic climax of a hard-fought race between Barack Obama and Mitt Romney.

Many were patient. Some were jittery.

Still others -- especially those enduring power outages and the mountains of debris left by superstorm Sandy last week -- were understandably a bit cranky.

For many, a palpable sense of excitement hung over what they saw as a crossroads for deeply divided and economically struggling America, with citizens choosing between two men with very different visions.

"It's very exciting, I love the turnout," said Cal Alde of Falls Church, Virginia, outside Washington, who sported a festive star-spangled top hat and a "Keep Obama and carry on" T-shirt after casting his vote.

"But we're biased," added his colleague Will Farnam,

wearing a pro-Obama badge while breakfasting on a bagel at Starbucks. "There are a lot of Romney people out there... It's going to be tight."

"We're excited on both sides," said Caitrin McCarron, a Republican supporter in nearby Arlington, Virginia.

"Virginia is obviously a battleground state," she told AFP, using the American political lingo for a hotly-contested state where the result could swing the final national outcome. "Everyone is coming out and excited and hopefully, by the end of the night, we'll know who is going to be our next president."

In New Jersey, reeling from superstorm Sandy which left thousands suddenly homeless last week, voters waited in line impatiently amid rubble and rotting rubbish.

In Hoboken, across the Hudson River from New York City, one makeshift polling station was 40 minutes late in opening, drawing complaints from the 60 or so people in line.

"Please excuse the appearance of this place," a poll worker told the crowd. "Two days ago, it was under two feet (60 centimeters) of water."

By mid-day, the waiting time at one polling station in Fairfax County outside Washington was three hours, an AFP reporter said.

Voters in the battleground

state of Ohio were wrestling with unusually long ballot papers due to the fact that they were voting not only for the next US president, but also for changes to the state constitution.

In Chicago, on the other hand, few voters were seen when polls opened at dawn -- possibly a reflection of how many, like president Obama himself, took advantage of early voting opportunities.

By some estimates, more than a third of Americans voted early -- something the Obama



Obama and Romney tip jar

turned up four hours early to be among the first to weigh in. She said she backed Obama, seeing him as a force for social change.

But another early-riser, Cuban-American Ruben Salazar, 72, favored Romney: "We need to change this president. I need a job for my wife, for my daughter, a better future for my grandsons, and that's why I'll vote for Romney."

In southern California, a mariachi band walked the streets of Van Nuys early in the day, stirring up the Latino vote for Obama with popular tunes like "La Bikina."

Behind them was a banner that read: "For our American Dream".

In Oakland, across the bay from unabashedly liberal San Francisco, Tommy Jones, 56,

waited 10 minutes to vote at a Baptist church, only to find the line twice as long when he exited.

"As a black man it is as important to vote this time as any time," he said, as a woman stepped out of the

church, pumped her fist and softly chanted: "Obama."

Online, many Americans used Twitter to post photos of themselves voting, and Four-Square to pinpoint where they did so. Google re-doodled its homepage logo to help users locate their nearest polling station.



Obama supporters walk around the south side of Chicago, wearing Obama and Romney masks, holding placards asking people to vote. (AFP)

Yesterday's very first ballots were cast just after midnight in the New Hampshire hamlet of Dixville Notch, where they were immediately counted. For the first time ever, it was a tie: five for Obama, five for Romney.



Mike Wigart (L), 30, casts his ballot at a polling station in the garage of the Los Angeles County lifeguard headquarters. (AFP)



A boy holding an American flag peeks out of the voting booth as his mother votes at the Town House in New Hampton, New Hampshire.

campaign actively encouraged.

In another battleground state, Florida, which decided the 2000 election for George W. Bush, long lines formed early at polling stations as weather forecasters warned of thunderstorms later in the day.

First-time voter Mary Ann Weber, 20, a University of Miami architecture student,

Two painted maliboxes sit on a corner in the Capitol Hill neighborhood. (AFP)





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INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Surge in deaths of migrants bound for Spain from Morocco

RABAT (AFP) - More than 90 illegal sub-Saharan migrants have died attempting to reach Spain from Morocco in the past two weeks, a Moroccan security source and members of the African immigrant community said yesterday.

"According to the testimonies of six survivors who managed to reach Spain, 54 people on the same boat drowned last week," said Pierre Delagrang, president of the sub-Saharan immigrant community in Morocco.

Another 19 sub-Saharan migrants were confirmed to have died off the coast of Tangier, Morocco's northern port city, just 14 kilometers (eight miles) from Spain, in the past fortnight, he added.

"Yesterday (Monday) three bodies were recovered from a beach near Tangier, bringing the number of dead there to 19, including women and children," Duladrang said, adding that two more who attempted the sea crossing were still missing.

A Senegalese in Tangier contacted by AFP, who identified himself only as Osman, gave the same toll of 54 from last week's boat tragedy and 19 dead off Tangier.

A Moroccan security source said the body of a sub-

Saharan migrant was found on the coast at Nador on Monday, near Spain's north African enclave of Melilla, after the body of a man and his young son were found in the same area last week.

The casualty figure of 76 raise the number of African migrants confirmed to have drowned in the waters between Morocco and Spain in the past two weeks to 92.

On October 26, the Muslim festival of Eid al-Adha, two Africans died and lifeguards rescued about 50 trying to reach Spain by boat from Morocco, a day after 14 others were pulled dead from the water, according to Spanish emergency services.

They are the most recent victims in a steady wave of migrants attempting to reach Spanish soil from Morocco, many of them in makeshift rafts, that has swelled in recent weeks.

The Moroccan authorities have saved around 6,500 illegal migrants from death at sea in the past five years, according to the official MAP news agency.

Another 23,000 sub-Saharan migrants planning to attempt the dangerous crossing have reportedly been arrested in Morocco over the same period.

Tutu hits out at child marriage

JOHANNESBURG (AFP) - Coercing girls under 18 into marriage is as repugnant as apartheid and should be battled with the same vigour, Nobel Peace Prize laureate and anti-apartheid icon Archbishop Desmond Tutu said yesterday.

"This is an issue I liken to apartheid in South Africa, that I would want to bring to it the same passion, the same commitment that I had in our struggle against apartheid," he told AFP.

"Apartheid sought to quite deliberately hamstring a whole community, and this practice does the same thing. It is in fact hamstringing whole communities, preventing them from developing as they could have developed if girl children were given the opportunity of staying longer in school."

An estimated 10 million children are married off each year worldwide. Niger, in west Africa, has the highest prevalence with three-quarters of girls forced into marriage before 18 years of age, according to statistics by global health agencies.

Tutu said that if the "scourge" was not brought to an



end soon, the world can forget about achieving the United Nations' Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) aimed at slashing poverty and hunger, and boosting access to health care and education for all, by 2015.

"Just in terms of maternal health, you already have huge problems, and we found that six of the eight MDGs we can just give up on. There's no hope."

The rate at which children are being given away to marriage has been on the rise, and conflicts and droughts ravaging parts of the continent have worsened the situation.

Human rights campaigner Graca Machel, Nelson Mandela's wife, told the meeting or-

ganised by the UK-based global charity Girls Not Brides: "No one has the right to determine what is the life of another human being -- even when you are a parent, even if you are a caregiver."

The UN Population Fund (UNFPA) estimate that if nothing is done to rein in the practice, 142 million girls would be married before their 18th birthday by 2020.

Tutu encouraged the female activists at the two-day meeting in Johannesburg to take to the front line in the battle against child marriages.

"You are more powerful than you think," said Tutu, citing Zimbabwe as an example how influential women can be.

"I think a lot of the trouble in Zimbabwe is because of women. When President Mugabe had Sally, his first wife, the Ghanaian... he was one of the best presidents in the world."

"Then Sally died, if you just look at when... the change happened and then he married a girl young enough to be his grand-daughter."

Sidiku Moussa, head of a coalition of children's rights NGOs in Niger said religion fuelled early marriages. Many of the faithful interpret the Koran literally to justify their taking a child bride, arguing that the Prophet Mohamed took a nine-year-old wife.

"The problem we have in Niger republic, 99 percent of the population are Muslims, that is the reason why we have early marriages, even forced marriages, and that is why we have this rate," Moussa said.

A soon-to-be published report by World Vision-UK showed that early marriages are perceived as a refuge from hunger, malnutrition, and even from rape and sexual assault during conflicts.

UN has 'credible' evidence Syria army using cluster bombs

UNITED NATIONS (AFP) - A top UN official said yesterday there is credible evidence that the Syrian army is using banned cluster bombs in its war with Syrian rebels who now have more "sophisticated" weaponry.

Jeffrey Feltman, the UN's top political affairs official, told the UN Security Council violence had worsened since UN-Arab League envoy Lakhdar Brahimi had tried to establish a ceasefire.

Feltman said there were "credible reports of the use of cluster bombs by government forces," according to diplomats who attended a closed-door meeting of the 15-nation council.

Non-government groups including Human Rights Watch had previously said Syrian

forces are using cluster bombs. The Syrian military last month denied that it even had the banned weapons in its arsenal.

"Rebel fighters could be in possession of more sophisticated armament," Feltman added.

Russia's Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov said earlier yesterday that Syrian rebels have obtained 50 Stinger shoulder-launched missiles.



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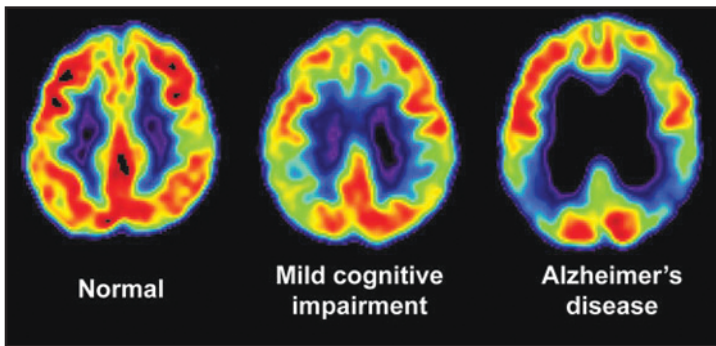
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Health & Living

Alzheimer's may be detectable earlier than thought



PARIS (AFP) - Researchers said they had seen the earliest-ever warning signs of Alzheimer's Disease -- among a high-risk group of 20-somethings -- in the ongoing quest for early detection and prevention.

A major problem in the search for a cure for this debilitating form of dementia is that symptoms appear years after irreversible brain decay has already set in.

For the study, a team of scientists from the United States and Colombia tested 18- to 26-year-old members of an extended Colombian family that share a common ancestor and a genetic predisposition to develop an inherited form of Alzheimer's.

One in three members of the clan carry a gene mutation that will lead to a rare form of the disease which hits people in their 40s, unlike the common variant which presents much later.

A brain scan comparison found that individuals who

carry the errant gene have less grey matter in certain areas of the brain than those who don't, scientists wrote in The Lancet medical journal.

They also found that those with the mutation had higher levels in their cerebrospinal fluid of a protein called amyloid beta, implicated in the plaque build-ups found on the brains of Alzheimer's sufferers.

The findings "suggest that neurodegenerative changes occur more than 20 years before symptom onset and somewhat earlier than was suggested by findings from previous MRI studies," Nick Fox of the University College London's Dementia Research Centre said in a comment on the study.

Alzheimer's disease causes two-thirds of dementia cases - attacking one in 200 people - the rate is increasing as the world's population ages.

Trial participants, 20 with the fateful gene mutation and 24 without, were not told

whether they had it or not. All had normal cognitive abilities at the time of the study.

But the outcome also raises questions about scientists' understanding of how Alzheimer's progresses.

"These findings... raise new questions about the earliest brain changes involved in the predisposition to Alzheimer's and the extent to which they could be targeted by future prevention therapies," research leader Eric Reiman from the Banner Alzheimer's Institute in Arizona said.

Scientists still do not know quite what to make of the plaques and tangles that German doctor Alois Alzheimer first spotted in the brain of a dementia patient who died in 1906.

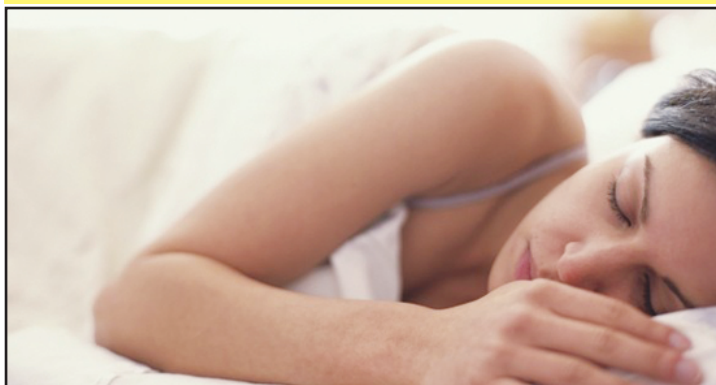
They disagree on the respective roles of beta amyloid plaque build-ups and of a protein called tau which forms tangles inside the brain cells.

Most test therapies have targeted beta amyloids, but some now suggest it is actually tau killing the brain cells.

According to Fox, the new study questioned existing models of Alzheimer's Disease "on several fronts".

Alzheimer's Disease International (ADI) projects the number of people with dementia will rise from 35.6 million in 2010 to 65.7 million by 2030 and 115.4 million by 2050.

US meningitis death toll rises to 30



WASHINGTON (AFP) - The death toll from a meningitis outbreak linked to tainted drugs rose to 30 as the number of cases climbed to a whopping 419, US health officials said.

Some 14,000 people in 23 states are at risk after having received potentially tainted doses of the steroid from the New England Compounding Center.

The steroid is typically injected into the spine to treat back pain but can also be used to treat joints and 10 of the

cases reported by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention were joint infections.

Authorities are investigating the NECC, saying its now defunct facility outside Boston made medications in unsanitary conditions with bacteria and mold so prevalent it could be seen with the naked eye.

Officials have said that due to the disease's long incubation period, it could be weeks before authorities have a final tally of the infections from the unprecedented outbreak.

NECC recalled all of its products on October 6 but the slow-moving infection can take 42 days, or even longer, to manifest symptoms.

Michigan has reported the highest number of cases -- 119 and seven deaths -- followed by the southern state of Tennessee, which has 78 cases and the highest number of fatalities at 13.

Other badly hit states include Florida, Indiana, Maryland, New Jersey and Virginia.

The outbreak has led to calls for tighter regulation of the loosely controlled pharmaceutical compounding industry. Federal investigators have launched a criminal probe into the case.

Critics say drug manufacturers have found a way to sidestep costly and strict oversight by classifying themselves as pharmacies, which are given freer rein to mix drug compounds for patients.



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The Purple Rose

He entered the room
And placed the Purple Rose
on the little table
He sat in front of her and smiled
She looked passed him
and did not blink an eye.

It is now the fifteenth year that he has been doing this
and still cannot get her to smile
As he looked into the expressionless eyes
his thoughts wandered away
Oh ... how well he remembered
the days when he brought her the Purple Rose

She would joyfully place it in her hair
laugh, hug and kiss him
They would spend hours having fun together
Today he spends hours just looking into those expressionless eyes
As he stood up to leave
he kissed her on her forehead
She then said:
"But who are you?"

As the tears sprang into his eyes
there was a lump in his throat
With his trembling hands he placed
the Purple Rose in her hair
As he walked away
he knew that she did not recognize
nor remembered him
But today he ... he lives on with the memory
that he remembers all too well:

The memory of, . . . "the woman that she used to be.
The woman he will always love."

By Roland Peterson



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Sci-Tech

Google says open to mediation in France media revenue row



PARIS (AFP) - Google said yesterday it was open to the idea of appointing a mediator to help end its bitter row with French news media sites that want to make the US Internet giant pay to display links to their content.

The battle has reached the highest levels of state here, with President Francois Hollande last month warning that his government would if necessary introduce a bill to force Internet search engines to pay for media content.

Alexandra Laferriere, an executive in the firm's French branch, said at a conference that the government had proposed nominating a mediator and that Google was "open to anybody who can help dialogue between us and editors".

Hollande's remarks in October came following a meeting with Google executive chairman Eric Schmidt.

The firm has said it would exclude French media sites from its search results if France were to adopt the bill requiring search engines to pay to link to news websites.

Italian and German firms have also joined the demand for Google to share some of the advertising revenue from user searches for news on websites.

Google, which receives four billion hits worldwide every month, has said such a law would "threaten (Google's) very existence".

Laferriere said the US giant had "invested massively in France."

"One hundred and fifty million euros have already been invested. There has also been a contribution to the French ecosystem through support for small businesses and start-ups," she said.

Google is also locked in a billion-dollar tax dispute with France but its chief Schmidt said he was hopeful of a settlement "by the end of the year."

A Paris appeals court has rejected a request by Google to invalidate the search and seizure of documents by French tax authorities.

US judge tosses Apple suit against Motorola

SAN FRANCISCO (AFP) - A federal judge yesterday tossed out an Apple lawsuit accusing Google-owned Motorola Mobility of trying to charge the iPhone maker too much for licenses to essential technology for mobile devices.

US District Court Judge Barbara Crabb dismissed the case after a week of pre-trial legal wrangling that evidently convinced her that the matter was headed for prolonged litigation instead of earnest resolution.

Apple filed suit against Motorola Mobility early last year after Motorola claimed it was due 2.25 percent royalty on sales of devices powered by iOS software, using patented Wi-Fi and video technology.

Apple argued that the price was too high because the technology was in a category considered industry-essential and therefore had to be licensed under terms that are "fair, reasonable, and nondiscrimina-

tory" (FRAND).

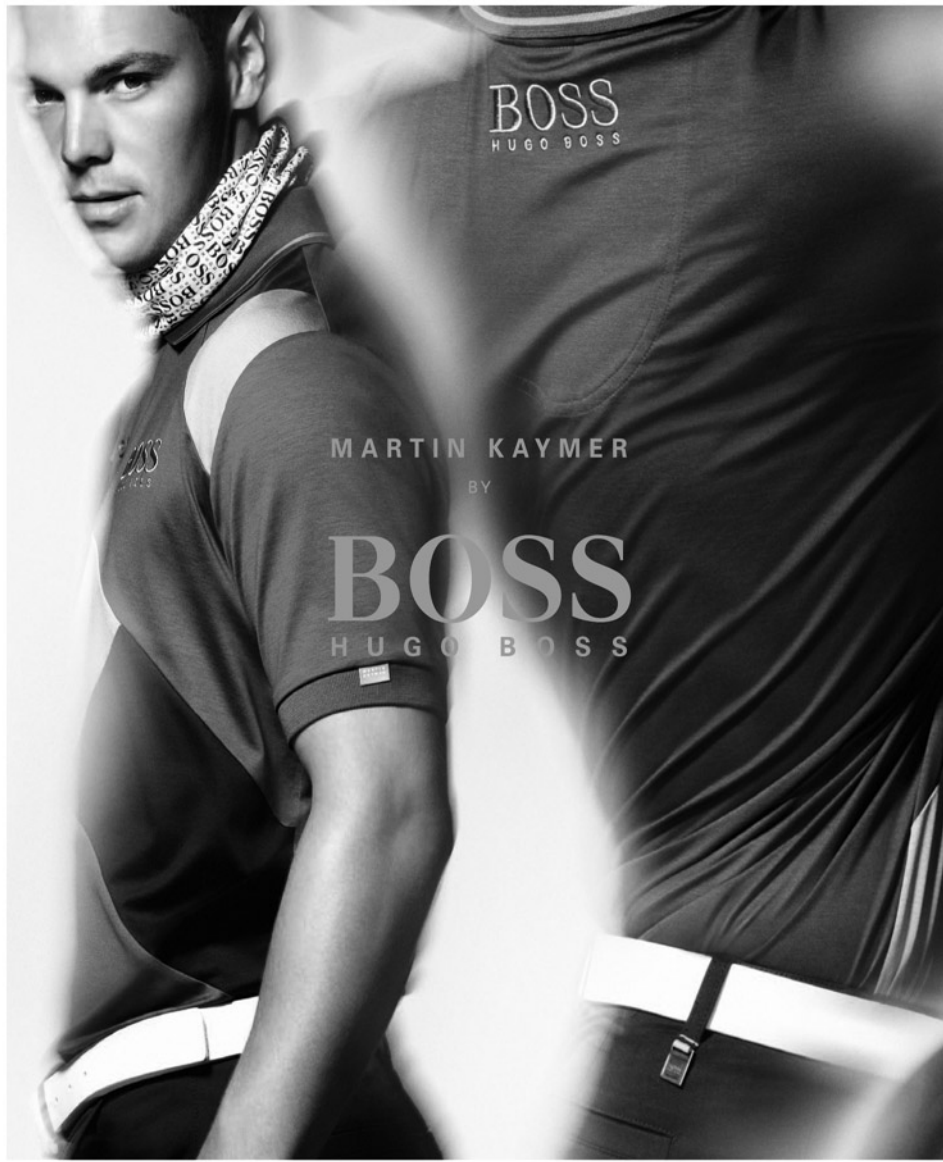
Crabb sided with Apple regarding the FRAND status of the Motorola technology but dismissed the case on Monday, when the trial was to begin, after Apple placed conditions on whether it would accept license terms set by the judge.

"The case cannot proceed to trial on the remaining issue; case dismissed," Crabb wrote in her ruling.

Apple can appeal the judge's decision.

Motorola Mobility said in a statement, ""We're pleased that the court has dismissed Apple's lawsuit with prejudice. Motorola has long offered licensing to our extensive standards-essential patent portfolio at a reasonable and non-discriminatory rate in line with industry standards. We remain interested in reaching an agreement with Apple."

Apple did not respond to an AFP request for comment.



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Instagram gets Facebook feel with online profiles

SAN FRANCISCO (AFP) - Picture sharing website Instagram this week began rolling out online profiles that let people showcase themselves and photos they've taken with the Facebook-owned smartphone application.

The creation of an online home for Instagram images put a Facebook spin on the startup that the world's leading social network bought this year.

People can share their profiles with whomever they wish as well as "follow" other Instagram users, commenting on or expressing "likes" for pictures.

Instagram was in the limelight last week as a key source for pictures showing the devastation of Hurricane Sandy.

Photos of the storm were popping up on many social networks including Twitter and Google+, but Instagram data showed at least 521,000 photos with the hashtag #Sandy. An-

other 306,000 were tagged #hurricaneSandy.

Facebook completed its acquisition of Instagram in September. The original price was pegged at \$1 billion but the final value was less because of

the decline in Facebook's share price.

The main point of Instagram is to share smartphone snaps, which can be enhanced with image filters to mimic historic types of film.



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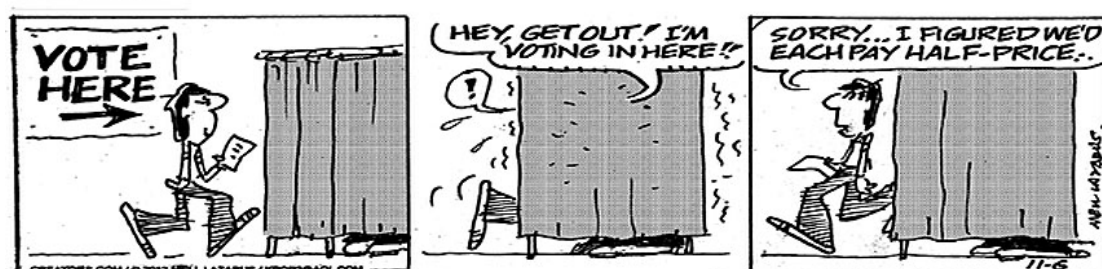
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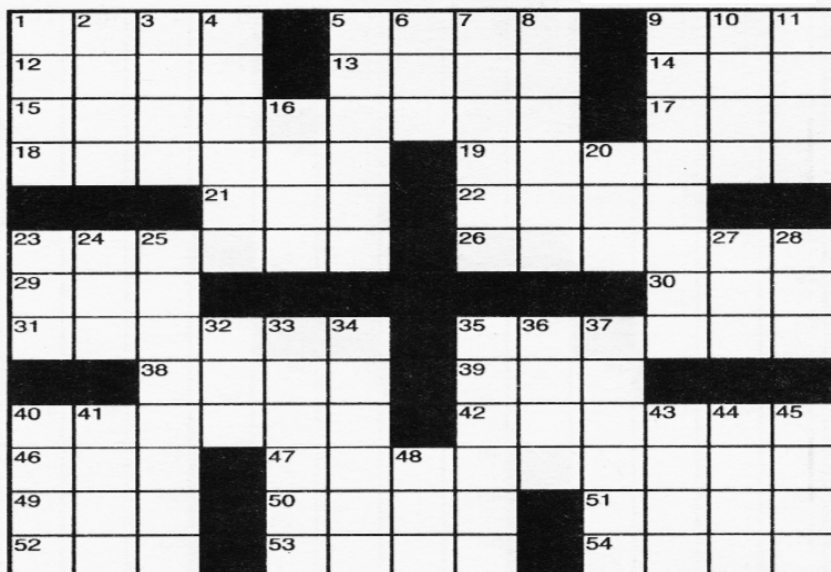
BAD GUYS

ACROSS

1. Not punctual
5. Primer boy
9. Herbal wrap provider
12. Gershwin and Levin
13. Raison d'—
14. Came in first
15. Mob member
17. Stopover location
18. Clothes
19. Blake or Plummer
21. Pre-Soviet commune
22. Temperate
23. Pioneers' transports
26. Mrs. Kowalski
29. Idaho's most populous county
30. Hearer
31. Lobbying group target
35. Throngs
38. Scottish Celt
39. Taxi
40. Like Crazy Eddie's prices
42. Baltimore bird
46. Camp bed
47. Rascal
49. "Air Force —"
50. French state
51. Mansard part
52. Oslo's land:

DOWN

1. Turkish coin
2. "How now! —?" ("Hamlet")
3. Finesse
4. Canine breed
5. Discourages
6. Resident: suffix
7. Combines butter and sugar
8. Miss Piggy's prince
9. Charlatan
10. Frog's stomping grounds
11. Paquin of "True Blood"
16. Joyce's land
20. Microbrewery brew
23. "Till There — You"
24. Refreshing drink
25. Hood
27. Cuban painter Wifredo
28. Art: Lat.
32. Battery size
33. Becomes rigid
34. Makes into an "in"
35. Merit-badge earners
36. Alert
37. Withstands
40. Religious picture
41. Words of warning to a tot
43. Aloud
44. One of Dinah's avenging brothers
45. Au or Co: abbr.
48. Part of a stable meal



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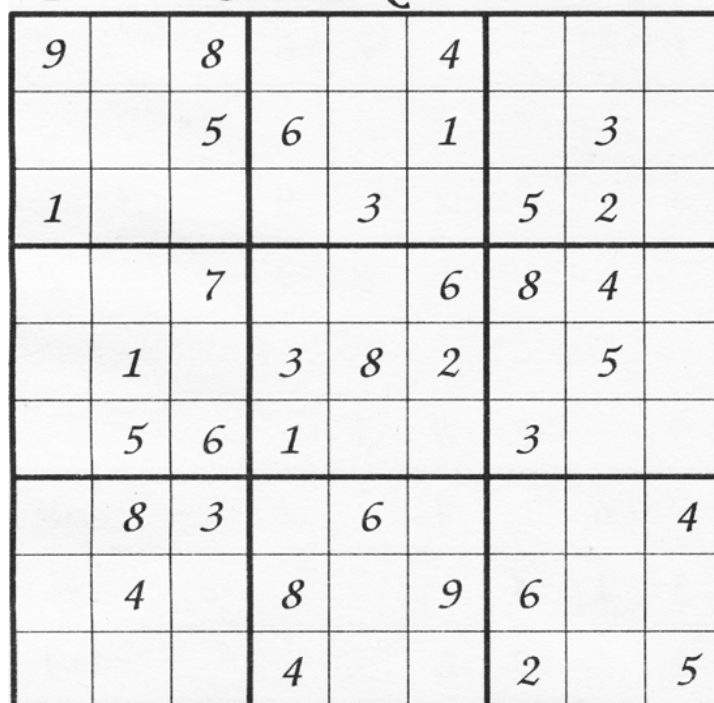
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Sudoku



SOLUTION

5	8	2	1	6	9	3	7	4
1	9	6	8	3	5	4	2	7
7	1	6	5	9	2	8	4	3
2	6	1	7	4	3	5	8	9
9	5	3	2	8	7	6	1	4
1	7	8	9	5	6	2	3	1
6	2	5	8	1	7	9	4	3
8	1	4	1	6	9	5	2	7
4	9	1	7	2	5	8	3	6

Complete the grid so that every row and every column contains the numbers 1 through 9. A number is Never repeated in a row or column. In addition every rectangle must contain the numbers 1 through 9



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Finance

Freddie Mac posts Q3 profit, seeks no Treasury aid

WASHINGTON, Nov 6, 2012 (AFP) - US mortgage finance giant Freddie Mac reported yesterday \$2.9 billion profit for the third quarter and said it did not need to ask the Treasury Department for additional aid.

The government-controlled company, bailed out during the 2008 financial crisis, said it had swung into profit compared with a \$4.4 billion loss a year ago, citing improvement in the ailing housing market.

The third-quarter net income was just below the \$3.0 profit in the second quarter, indicating the lender's recovery was gaining traction after a long slog through heavy losses.

In August the Treasury announced an accelerated plan to wind down Freddie Mac and sister institution Fannie Mae, ending a requirement that they pay an annual 10 percent dividend to the Treasury on its preferred stock out of any quarterly profit.

At times of losses, the prior rescue plan had meant the companies were locked in a vicious circle of borrowing from the Treasury to pay the dividend.

The revamped rescue plan simply sweeps up all profits generated by the two companies each quarter, meaning they will have no retained profits, making it impossible for them to expand their business.

At the same time, both will face an accelerated plan to reduce the size of their investment portfolios, which currently total half or more of the country's home loans.

The amended rescue plan takes effect on January 1, 2013.

Freddie Mac said the slight quarter-on-quarter decline in profit mainly reflected a \$455 million increase in its provision for credit losses, related to single-family homes.

Freddie Mac chief executive Donald Layton said the in-

YESTERDAY'S Crossword Answer



Current as of:
11/06/2012

Currency	Buying rate banknotes	Buying Cheques	Selling Rate
U.S.A.	USD	1.77	1.78
Dutch Antilles	ANG	98.00	100.00
Canada	CAD	1.77	1.79
Britain	GBP	2.78	2.83
Switzerland	CHF	188.63	189.35
Netherlands	EUR	225.91	227.97
Sweden	SEK	25.61	26.33
Denmark	DKK	29.59	30.31
Norway	NOK	30.17	30.89
Japan	JPY	220.19	222.20
(per 10,000)		224.43	

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France embraces shock therapy for ailing economy

PARIS (AFP) - France unveiled yesterday tax breaks for businesses worth up to 20 billion euros a year in a bid to address the flagging competitiveness at the heart of the country's economic malaise.

"France needs a new model that will put it back at the center of the world economy," Prime Minister Jean-Marc Ayrault said, adding the government had decided to implement virtually all of the measures recommended in a report drawn up at its request by industrialist Louis Gallois.

Designed to offset the high payroll taxes that have dulled the competitive edge of French companies both in the world and the eurozone, the tax credits will be financed by a combination of cuts in public spending and increases in sales taxes (VAT).

The measures announced

yesterday follow a stark warning from the International Monetary Fund that France must implement a program of radical structural reform or risk falling behind neighbours like Italy and Spain who have been forced into reform as a result of the eurozone debt crisis.

Despite a grim depiction of the current situation, the prime minister insisted that the administration was capable of emulating countries like Sweden by reforming its economy without dismantling its social welfare system.

"France is not condemned to an inevitable spiral of decline but a national shock is essential if we are to retake control of our destiny," Ayrault said.

The tax breaks will take the form of credits applied to company earnings from next year and will have an impact on public finances from 2014.

They will be phased in progressively with the cost of them reaching 20 billion euros per year by 2016.

To finance the tax credits, France's standard rate of VAT will rise from 19.6 to 20 percent from January 1, 2014.

An intermediate rate of 7.0 percent, which notably applies to meals in restaurants, will rise to 10.0 percent at the same time.

The minimum rate, which applies to food bought from shops and domestic energy supplies, will be cut from 5.5 to 5.0 percent in order, Ayrault said, to ensure that the poorest families were not penalised by the rise in taxes.

The government also announced plans to cut 10 billion euros from public spending in 2014-15 and said it would introduce new green taxes from 2016 which will boost the public coffers by three billion euros per year.

Japan's Suzuki shutters US car business



TOKYO (AFP) - Japan's Suzuki said yesterday it would shut down its money-losing car business in the United States and file for bankruptcy, citing a strong yen and weak demand for its small cars in the US market. But American Suzuki Motor Corp. (ASMC), which said it has debts of \$346 million, added that it would continue selling motorcycles, all-terrain vehicles and marine products -- such as outboard motors -- in the country. Suzuki sold about 26,000 vehicles in the US in 2011, a fraction of rival Japanese automakers such as Toyota, Nissan and Honda. ASMC "recognised it will be unable to maintain profitability with respect to its automobile marketing business", the firm said in a statement.

New bank notes for S.Africa



New bank notes which feature the face of former president Nelson Mandela went in circulation yesterday (Tuesday, November 6).

Reserve Bank governor Gill Marcus said it took an average of five to seven years for a central bank to implement a change to its currency and enhance counterfeit measures.

The new security features

in the new notes include improved watermarks, micro-printing, and unique numbering. Raised printing was added to assist the visually impaired.

The new R10, R20, R50, R100 and R200 notes show Mandela's face on the front, and the big five animals, which appear on the existing notes, on the back.

Colombia peace talk preparations to start in Cuba

HAVANA (AFP) - Negotiators for the Colombian government and leftist Colombian guerrillas were preparing a first meeting ahead of peace talks which formally start here November 15, Cuban state media said.

The Colombian government of President Juan Manuel Santos and Latin America's longest-fighting rebels formally launched peace talks in Norway on October 18 aimed at ending nearly five decades of a conflict that has claimed hundreds of thousands of lives.

Norway, followed by Cuba, are hosting the first direct talks between the two sides in 10 years.

The Norway round of talks was aimed at hashing out technical details and logistics for the peace process's five-point

plan. The talks now set for Tuesday are expected to focus on agenda issues.

On November 15 in-depth negotiations are scheduled to start with the thorny issue of rural development. Colombia has wide income disparities, with much of the country's rural areas lacking basic services and infrastructure.

The Cuba round of talks will also address the issue of land distribution. Colombia's countryside is full of large plots mostly owned by wealthy landowners, and little land is available to small farmers who want their own pieces of land.

Land reform was at the heart of a peasant uprising in the 1960s that saw the formation of the FARC, and access

to farmland remains an important issue in a country where half the population lives in poverty.

The Colombian government estimates that some 600,000 people have been killed by armed groups and security forces in the country since the conflict began, and that 3.7 million Colombians have been displaced in the unrest.

Latin America's largest rebel group, founded in 1964 and with some 9,200 armed fighters, may be ready for a truce after a long string of setbacks.

In recent years several top rebel leaders have been killed or captured. Guerrilla ranks have also shrunk to half of what they were at their peak in the 1990s.

UN food agency to help 500,000 hurricane victims in Cuba

GENEVA (AFP) - The UN food agency said it is to deliver emergency aid to nearly 500,000 people in Cuba, describing Hurricane Sandy as the worst natural disaster to hit the southeastern part of the island in 50 years.

At the request of the Cuban authorities, Byrs said the food agency planned to distribute one-month rations to people "as quickly as possible" in Santiago de Cuba in the southeast of the country where the damage is worst.

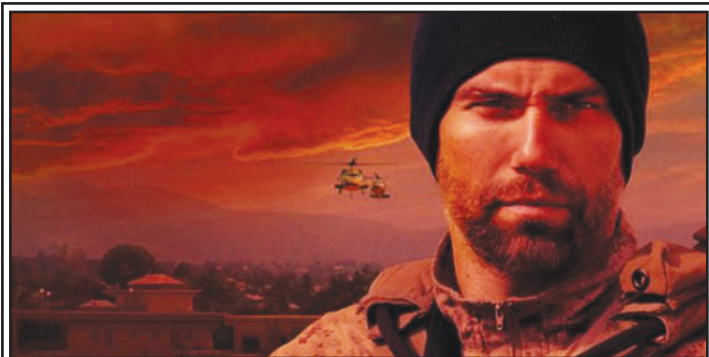
More than one million people were affected by Hurricane Sandy, which killed 11 people and damaged more than 188,000

homes when it tore across eastern Cuba on October 25.

The natural disaster also ravaged nearly 100,000 hectares (250,000 acres) of crops, according to a UN report, while the WFP said 12,700 tonnes of food stocks were destroyed in the storm.

The agency also expressed concern for damage to livestock facilities.

According to the latest reports from the WFP, nearly two million people face food insecurity in the impoverished Caribbean country, which had already succumbed to an earthquake and drought before Sandy hit.



WASHINGTON (AFP) - About 2.7 million viewers watched Sunday's television premiere of the first movie about the US commando raid that killed Osama bin Laden, the National Geographic Channel said Monday. "SEAL Team Six: The Raid on Osama bin Laden" caused a stir when it was announced in October that it would screen on the American cable channel just two days before the US presidential election. Fueling the buzz was the fact that Hollywood mogul Harvey Weinstein, a prominent fundraiser for President Barack Obama, was among the backers of the 90-minute action thriller. The National Geographic Channel, part of conservative media tycoon Rupert Murdoch's global empire, said "SEAL Team Six" was its top-rated show of this year, and the sixth most watched in its history.

Israel to build 1,213 new settlement homes: NGO

JERUSALEM (AFP) - Israel published tenders for 1,213 new homes in settlement neighbourhoods of east Jerusalem, drawing fire from Palestinians who said it made them more determined to seek greater UN status.

Israeli watchdog group Peace Now, citing documents published by the Israeli housing ministry, said tenders were offered for 607 units in Pisgat Zeev and 606 units in Ramot, both in east Jerusalem.

It added that 72 units were re-offered in the West Bank settlement of Ariel.

Peace Now, which opposes Israeli settlement in the West Bank and east Jerusalem, slammed the new tenders, noting that they come after Palestinian president Mahmud Abbas reiterated his commitment to peace negotiations in an interview with Israeli television.

Israeli settlement construction in the West Bank and east Jerusalem is one of the most contentious issues in stalled Israeli-Palestinian peace talks.

Direct negotiations between the two sides have been on hold since late September 2010, when they ground to a halt over settlement construction.

The international community considers Israeli settlement construction to be a violation of international law, but the number of settlers in the West Bank has grown to around 340,000, with another 200,000 living in east Jerusalem.

Taj Mahal Restaurant, an authentic culinary excursion



When Bharat Shah, originally from India, but now a successful businessman in California, put on a spectacular wedding in Aruba for his daughter Lisa and her groom Kalpesh, they welcomed hundreds of friends and relatives from around the world, including the "old country."

When all the wedding guests had finally arrived in Aruba, Bharat hosted an official welcome party along the shore in Palm Beach, and he chose to have it catered by Taj Mahal restaurant, he was that impressed by their cuisine.

If you like your Indian food authentic, or are looking for a new and unique dining experience, an evening at Taj Mahal will deliver a memorable meal. A seemingly endless menu offers scores of choices for fish, chicken, lamb and vegetarian dishes that are "the real deal," discover that Indian food goes way beyond curry!

A taste-testing crew from THE MORNING NEWS chose a selection of their singular starters and two main courses with saffron rice, served family style, which provided a fine example of the versatility of their chef.

Taj Mahal's Tai Choice is a great way to start the meal and be initiated into the joys of Indian cuisine, offering a diverse selection of traditional favorites. It contains hearty portions of Pakoras, crispy vegetarian fritters, Aloo Tikki, potato cutlets, Chicken Tikka, tender chicken breast pieces seasoned just right, and shaped and seasoned ground lamb, charmingly dubbed "Sheik Kebabs." All is served on a bed of sliced onions and brought to your table on a sizzling platter, and you will want to dish those sautéed onions on to one of their tasty Indian breads called Naan, leaving behind not a single crumb. Main dishes are accompanied by a choice of rice, mixed vegetables rich with garlic, or Naan, plain, buttered, onion or garlic, and you will want to order an extra basket or

two of this tasty delight, on which you can spoon your main course, as well. Poori is crispy fried naan, and most definitely worth the extra two dollars to sample with your meal.

Our group also added an appetizer of crunchy Samosas, the Indian form of a potato knish, served with either cilantro or sweet and sour sauce. A platter of their Jhinga, large, crispy-fried shrimp in a delicate batter is ample enough to serve as a main course, though featured on their appetizer menu.

As we mentioned, main courses are served family style, in beautiful little pots that sit upon a candle to keep them warm. Our group sampled the "Mutton Saagwala," also known as "Lamb Shag" which is cooked in a thick sauce of yogurt and spinach, and the "Fish Hara Masala," moist, tender chunks of fish in a rich sauce featuring cilantro as the main flavoring. This is offered in mild, medium and very spicy, we found the medium quite spicy enough for us; it left a tingle on the tongue.

The family style service allows everyone at the table to sample a bit of this and that, and we heartily recommend you do, to truly appreciate this authentic bit of India in Aruba. Open for lunch and dinner, Taj Mahal sports a cozy and intimate air-conditioned dining room and a small outdoor terrace for those that enjoy dining al fresco. They have an exotic dessert menu to match, but our group was too stuffed to partake; there was even enough left to box up and provide a lunch next day for the lucky first person to get to it!

Located behind the Royal Plaza Mall, Taj Mahal offers a dining experience that is truly out of the ordinary; they feature an excellent and tasty selection for vegetarians too. If you are a fan of Indian food, or have been toying with trying it, Taj Mahal is the place for a very affordable dining experience and the real deal! Call 588-4494 for reservations.

Buster's is back in Eagle Beach at Trop Casino



The home of the Beer Pong drinking game

Fans of Aruba's favorite sports bar are happy to hear that **Buster's Garage** has relocated to the restaurant/bar space inside Trop Casino. Now Eagle Beach resort guests have a great place for a bargain-priced breakfast or a bucket of beer while rooting for the team of their choice.

Buster's has that great, homey feel of settling in to

enjoy a game with buddies, greatly due to the warmth and enthusiasm of owner Rusty. He takes pride in making patrons feel welcome. "If somebody really needs to watch their home team on the field, we'll be happy to put it on for them," he confidently assured us. "We have 3 satellite dishes with separate packages to pick up every station imaginable. If there is a

game going on out there somewhere, we'll find it."

With giant screens everywhere throughout the joint, there isn't a bad seat in the house. Aside from their all day menu of game-watching favorites, they also feature a hearty breakfast menu. The "Grand Slam Platter" includes eggs any style, pancakes or



A whopping cheese nachos w/chicken dish



Threesome, takes care of the entertainment

waffles, bacon, juice, fresh made home fries with coffee or tea for only \$9. Lunch and dinner menus reflect the same moderate pricing with required sports bar standards such as chicken wings, club sandwiches, burgers and a heaping helping of nachos, averaging \$9; pizza and main courses range from \$11 to \$15.

Aside from the games and the gambling, patrons can expect great entertainment three nights weekly with one of

Aruba's most popular trios, "Threesome." There are also some wild times getting acquainted with Rusty's Beer Pong, the Drinking Game of Champions. Win or lose, players always end up with a smile on their face.

This family friendly place, with air hockey and video games for the kids, along with a special menu for young ones, **is open 7 days a week from 7:30 AM until 1:00 AM for late night snacking and fun.**

Gold Coast Aruba: This is the time to invest



Management of Gold Coast Aruba, the island's newest and most innovative gated community, reports that sales have been very good and encouraging as the global economy recovers and people looking to purchase vacation homes have found that Gold Coast is an outstanding investment value. Director of Sales, Fito Croes has noticed a surprising percentage of owners in reality do not spend a great amount of time personally to use the villas or town homes they purchase, but are taking advantage of Gold Coast's rental services to turn their investment into ready income.

"The greater portion of home owners are using their 'home away from home' in Aruba to escape the winter months, or spend holidays with the family on the island," he remarked, "but I am gratified by how many are buying because they felt secure with

real estate investment on Aruba. They really study the history and economy of the island and are impressed with the political stability and continually increasing value of prime locations. Gold Coast is in the heart of Malmok, considered Aruba's most exclusive community where the value of properties has only increased over time. It is only minutes to the best beaches and all the action, and yet offers a quiet and secluded getaway; we are very pleased by the response to our concept."

Fito, with his sister Mayrin and brother Rudy operate Cas Bon, which has been constructing homes and building developments for all budgets for nearly twenty years. "Gold Coast Aruba is the jewel in our crown," observes Fito. "We were very excited about this project and the scope of actual and planned facilities and amenities. We have spoken to

countless island visitors to find out what they would really want in a permanent residence on Aruba, and took from there."

Input from frequent vacationers who have dreamed of their own home in Aruba contributed to the realization of Gold Coast Aruba which when complete will be a community of 260 town homes, villas and condominiums with a stunning clubhouse complemented by two additional community pool areas. The Clubhouse is about to start construction and

appreciation on their investment, particularly those taking advantage of the on site management's rental services program. There is always a great demand for Aruba and facilities such as those at Gold Coast, make it easy for some owners to see a valuable return on their investment.

The design of the residences and public areas is open, airy and spacious, taking full advantage of the island environment, with quality construction and finishing available. Partnering with two



will offer to the community homeowners and visitors 2 tennis courts, full service spa and fitness center as well as a stunning pool area and is expected to be complete by early 2013. It will also house a restaurant and mini-market.

Owners who purchased upon the groundbreaking only a few short years ago, are already enjoying a nearly 50%

of Aruba's top providers of kitchens and bathrooms enables developers to offer custom options allowing buyers to individualize their homes. An elegant and chic furniture package is available or island designers will assist owners in finishing the décor to their specific tastes.

There are many aspects to purchasing property; not the

least is the future value of the investment. To further enhance this, Gold Coast management have inaugurated a number of in-house services and have recently become affiliated Interval International, the world's largest network of vacation ownership properties which provides an unlimited international pool of investors to tap for ownership and rental prospects. Property exchange for a vacation in another destination is also available through the Interval International affiliation. Gold Coast's own rental services have also proven highly successful in assisting owners in renting their villas; 24-hour security and maintenance services also tip the scales when it is time to make a decision. Aside from all this, housekeeping, child care, catering services, car rental through its partnership with AVIS car rental are also available as well as pre-shopping services so cupboards and refrigerators are stocked upon arrival, which can also be arranged through their property management department. Personnel are also available to assist in arranging restaurant reservations and island activities.

Visit their website: www.goldcoastaruba.com for more details and availability or call 586-2200 to arrange a personal tour.

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SPORTS

NFL: Brees tosses two TD passes as Saints down Eagles

NEWORLEANS, Louisiana (AFP) - Drew Brees threw two touchdown passes Monday to lead New Orleans over the Philadelphia Eagles 28-13, giving the Saints their third National Football League triumph in four games.

Brees stretched his NFL-record streak of consecutive games with a touchdown pass to 51 as the Saints improved to 3-5 while the Eagles fell to 3-5.

With the Eagles in the shadow of the end zone, Saints defender Patrick Robinson picked off a pass by Philadelphia's Michael Vick and returned the ball 99 yards for a touchdown as the Saints took a 7-0 lead after the first quarter.

Alex Henery kicked a 22-yard field goal early in the second quarter to put the Eagles on the scoreboard but the Saints answered on a 22-yard touchdown run by Chris Ivory to seize a 14-3 lead.

Brees flipped a 1-yard touchdown pass to Marques Colston with 73 seconds to play in the second quarter, giving the Saints a 21-3 half-time edge.

Vick connected with DeSean Jackson on a 77-yard touchdown pass early in the third quarter and Henery added a 37-yard field goal to pull the Eagles within 21-13.

But the Saints answered when Brees tossed a 6-yard touchdown pass to Jimmy Graham late in the third quarter to create the final margin.

Tennis: Federer sinks Tipsarevic to set Tour Finals record

LONDON (AFP) - Roger Federer started his bid for a seventh ATP Tour Finals title in record-breaking fashion as the Swiss great crushed Janko Tipsarevic 6-3, 6-1 at London's O2 Arena on Tuesday.

Federer's victory took him to 40 match wins in his 11 appearances at the prestigious season-ending event, breaking the previous record of 39 held by Ivan Lendl.

The 31-year-old already has a record six titles in this season-ending event after winning



the tournament for the last two years and he looks in the mood to complete a hat-trick on the evidence of this emphatic Group B victory over the Serbian eighth seed in just one hour and eight minutes.

Since winning Wimbledon for a 17th Grand Slam crown and returning to the top of the world rankings in July, Federer has endured something of a rough ride by his own sky-high standards.

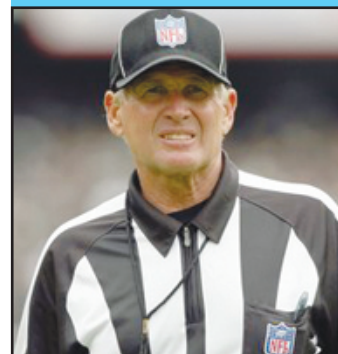
He squandered a chance to win a gold medal in the Olympic singles after being thrashed by Andy Murray in the final and then suffered a shock loss in the US Open quarter-finals against Tomas Berdych.

Federer was also beaten by Juan Martin del Potro in the final of his hometown event in Basel last month and surrendered his number one ranking to Novak Djokovic as a result.



LONDON (AFP) - : Serbia's Novak Djokovic poses with the 2012 ATP World Tour No 1 Award trophy (L) and the Arthur Ashe Humanitarian Award (R) after a presentation on court on the second day of the ATP World Tour Finals tennis tournament in London yesterday.

NFL admits mistake by official



--The NFL acknowledged Monday that Carolina Panthers running back DeAngelo Williams did not step out of bounds on his 30-yard run into the end zone Sunday against the Washington Redskins. But the touchdown he scored on that play still should not have counted.

The play should have been ruled dead at the Redskins 17-yard line, according to a written statement by the league. The Panthers would have had the option of replaying that down or taking the play as it stood at the 17-yard line.

According to referee Carl Cheffers, the officials somehow determined that the whistle hadn't been blown until after Williams reached the end zone.

Redskins linebacker Perry Riley said he pulled up after hearing the whistle, which is clearly audible during the play.

The touchdown stood because inadvertent whistles aren't reviewable by replay.

Riley said he was told immediately after the play that there was no whistle, and he was relieved to hear officials admit after the game it had occurred.



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Boxing: Poonsawat books title fight on Donaire card: report



"Filipino Flash" Nonito Donaire

HOUSTON (AFP) - "Filipino Flash" Nonito Donaire will defend his super bantamweight crown against Mexico's Jorge Arce next month and Thailand's Poonsawat Kratingdaenggym reportedly will

fight for a rival title.

Donaire, who is 10 days shy of his 30th birthday, will make his third defense of the World Boxing Organization belt he won earlier this year on December 15 at Houston in the home arena of the NBA's Houston Rockets.

And Poonsawat will challenge 32-year-old unbeaten Cuban southpaw Guillermo Rigondeaux for the World Boxing Association version of the same weight division crown in a deal signed Tuesday, promoters told ESPN.

Donaire, 30-1 with 19 knockouts, beat South African Jeffrey Mathebula last July and Japan's Toshiaki Nishioka last month after taking the title with a split decision last February over Puerto Rico's Wilfredo Vazquez.

Arce, 33, is 61-6 with two drawn and 46 knockouts. He has nine wins and a draw since last being beaten by South African Simphiwe Nongqayi in 2009 -- a defeat Arce avenged last year.

Two-time Olympic champion Rigondeaux, 11-0 with eight knockouts, will also make his third defense of a crown won this year.

Rigondeaux, who has been pushing for a unification bout with Donaire, beat Americans Teon Kennedy and Robert



Mexico's Jorge Arce "El Travieso"

Marroquin in prior title defenses this year.

Poonsawat, who held the WBA crown for most of 2010, is 48-2 with 33 knockouts. He

has won seven fights in a row since losing the WBA crown in October of 2010 to Japan's Ryol Li Lee by unanimous decision.



Thailand's Poonsawat Kratingdaenggym

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Brazil Taekwondo Team receives warm welcome from youth Minister Marilyn Maduro after bringing home the TK5 Cup from Curacao



Recently, Brazil Taekwondo team returned from Curacao after winning the TK5 Cup. The team is doing a very good job abroad and is bringing home big prizes with every trip. After participating at the TK5 Cup championship in Curacao the team took a week break, but are now ready to continue their intensive trainings as they have already received an invitation from Venezuela to participate at the International Championship with participation of Venezuela and Surinam. On their arrival a very supportive youth Minister Marilyn Maduro was at hand to receive them and congratulate them for a job well done!

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NBA results



LeBron James #6 of the Miami Heat

MIAMI (AFP) - LeBron James scored 23 points and Dwyane Wade added 22 to spark the reigning NBA champion Miami Heat over Phoenix 124-99 on Monday, stretching their win streak to three games.

Chris Bosh added 18 points -- all in the first half -- for the Heat, who lost their opener to the New York Knicks but improved to 3-1 on the season.

James also pulled down 11 rebounds, while Ray Allen came off the bench to produce 15 points, six rebounds and six assists.

The Suns, who suffered their third loss in four games, were led by reserve Shannon Brown's 18 points and 15 from Argentina's Luis Scola.

Slovenia's Goran Dragic contributed 13 points and nine assists for Phoenix while Poland's Marcin Gortat added 12 points and 13 rebounds for the Suns.

The Heat will next face Brooklyn today, while the Suns will meet Charlotte.

Minnesota's J.J. Barea and Cleveland's Donald Sloan were named on Monday as the first NBA players to draw warnings from the league under a new anti-flopping rule introduced this season.

Both incidents of flopping -

- where a player exaggerates slight contact to convince an official he has been fouled -- took place in games on Friday.

Barea exaggerated the impact of receiving a forearm to the face from Sacramento's Jimmer Fredette in the fourth quarter of Minnesota's victory over the Kings, by throwing his arms in the air and stumbling backwards.

Sloan tangled legs with Chicago's Nazr Mohammed before spinning around and tumbling to the court with his arms raised.

The anti-flopping rule was introduced in an attempt to curtail the number of times players attempt to prompt foul calls on opponents by amplifying the effects of contact.

First-time offenders under the new rule are given only a warning, but a second flop brings a \$5,000 fine. A third violation leads to a \$10,000 fine followed by \$15,000 for the fourth flop and \$30,000 for a fifth.

After that any further flops could lead to a player being suspended.

While Russian guard Alexey Shved is making a strong impact three games into his NBA career, coming off the bench to help rally the Minnesota Timberwolves over host Brooklyn 107-96 for a 2-1 start to the season.

The 23-year-old playmaker, who starred for Russia in a bronze medal showing at the London Olympics, played the entire fourth quarter Monday and scored 10 points, including two key 3-pointers and the go-ahead basket with 2:35 to play.

"I know he can play like that," said Minnesota center Andrei Kirilenko, who also played alongside Shved at

CSKA Moscow and on the Olympic squad.

Shved also pulled down two rebounds and passed off two assists as the T-Wolves recovered from a 71-49 third-quarter deficit. Minnesota coach Rick Adelman went with a small lineup with Shved as the major playmaker among them.

Minnesota outscored Brooklyn 58-25 after falling behind by 22 points, including a key 15-2 run in the fourth quarter. The Nets managed only 10 points in the fourth quarter. The Timberwolves closed the game with an 11-0 run.

Los Angeles Lakers guard Steve Blake was fined \$25,000 by the NBA for directing inappropriate language at a spectator, the league announced on Tuesday.

The incident occurred just after Blake fouled out of the game with 29.2 seconds remaining in the fourth quarter of the Lakers' 105-95 loss to the Los Angeles Clippers last Friday.



Alexey Shved #1 of the Minnesota Timberwolves drives against MarShon Brooks #9 of the Brooklyn Nets

The Lakers are 1-3, having avoided losing their first four games of a season for the first time since 1957 with a 108-79 victory over Detroit on Sunday.

While in Charlotte, NC - Charlotte Bobcats guard Gerald Henderson was expected to miss between two and four

weeks of the NBA season after being diagnosed with a left foot sprain, the team said Tuesday.

He sprained it in the Bobcats' 126-99 loss at Dallas last Saturday. The Bobcats are 1-1 in the young season after edging Indiana 90-89 in their opener last Friday at home.



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